

9 November 1994

Chairman's Statement On Purpose And Use Of Sensor Guidance Documents

The OSCC has adopted Decisions 3,7,14,15 and 16 in accordance with the Treaty requirement to specify procedures for the four Treaty sensor methodologies. These legally binding Decisions are limited in scope to describing "what" is to be accomplished during the sensor certification and demonstration flights. The Decisions are silent on the details of "how" to implement the respective methodologies.

In an effort to facilitate the implementation of these Decisions, the Informal Working Group on Sensors (IWGS) will develop Guidance Documents representing the common view worked on at the experts' meetings. These Guidance Documents will be brought to the attention of the Open Skies Consultative Commission and will be applied from then on.

The Guidance Document will not be legally binding. However, they will be approved as IWGS documents and will serve to translate the negotiators' intent into field implementers' detailed instructions.

A State Party which follows the procedures laid out in the Guidance Documents may expect agreement by those international experts who attend the certification or demonstration flight. However, if a State Party chooses a different procedure for the certification or demonstration flight, it will be requested to explain its approach to those experts who attend the certification or demonstration flight. A different technical approach than those specified in the IWGS Guidance Documents will require detailed and persuasive explanations to obtain agreement by the experts for its use in certification. If the experts are not convinced of the merits of the alternative approach, this issue may provide a basis for not agreeing to the certification and not signing the certification report. This approach would serve as motivation for a State Party to follow an already agreed procedure.

The IWGS has agreed to the above-stated purpose of Guidance Documents and, upon endorsement by the OSCC, this statement will be recorded in the Journal of the day.